(c) There is one Marathi daily from Raigad district which is in the approved list of DAVP for issue of advertisements.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) As per the information available in the office of Registrar of Newspapers for India, 221 daily and 581 weekly newspapers in marathi language were registered with them as on 31.12.1993.

Banning production and sale of cassettes with indecent songs

2701. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any procedure for checking banning the production and sale of cassettes bearing songs detrimetal to the social, political, cultural and ntional interests of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government feel it necessary for taking necessary action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) The production and sale of cassettes, both audio and video, is in the private sector and the State Governments and the Union Territory Administration are primarily concerned with such matters.

The Cinematograph Act, 1952 (37 of 1952) makes provision for the certification of films (including video films) for public exhibition. It does not cover audio cassettes.

As regards video cassettes, the position is that all films including video films, intended for public exhibition, are required to be certified by the Central Board of Film Certification in accordance with the provision of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and the guidelines issued thereunder. The objectives of film certification are, *inter alia*, to ensure that—

(a) the medium of film remains responsible and sensitive to the values and standards of society;

(b) the medium of film provides clean and healthy entertainment; and

(c) as far as possible, the film is of aesthetic value and cinematically of a good standard.

In pursuance of the above objectives, the Board, while examining films for certification, shall *inter alia* ensure that—

(i) human sensibilities are not offened by vulgarity, obscenity or depravity;

(ij) such dual meaning words as obviously cater to baser instincts are not allowed; and

(iii) visual or words which promote anti-national attitudes are not presented.

Any part of the film which violates any one or more of the Guidelines is deleted before a certificate is granted. Where a film is considered not suitable for exhibition to non-adults, it is granted 'A' certificate. If the objectionable impact cannot be removed by deletions, the film is refused a certificate.

High prices of newsprint

2702. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reactions of Government on the demand of the newspapers industry to decontrol newsprint;